

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. If they are going to go ahead with this, then they should immediately (before the November 2, 2004 election) follow up by airing "Going Upriver," the documentary about John Kerry's Vietnam Service. Further, they should do an investigative piece about George W. Bush's "missing year" in the Texas Air National Guard - many of us question HIS honor and character by failing to show up and complete his service obligation!

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.